**Deletion of Minerals from Scheduled List of Minerals**

5231. SHRI SANAT MEHTA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat has represented to delete Lime-Stone and Bauxite from the list of scheduled minerals shown in Schedule-I of MMRD Act, 1957;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The proposal which was received on 28.4.97 was discussed in the 1st meeting of the Committee constituted under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Mines) to review the Mining Rules and procedures held on 29th April, 1997. The terms of reference of the Committee inter-alia include review of the existing laws and procedures governing regulation and development of minerals and to recommend steps to make them compatible with the policy changes and to suggest steps to reduce delays in grant/ renewal of Prospecting Licence/Mining Lease. The Committee is also to consider and suggest further delegation of powers to the State Governments regarding grant/ renewal of prospecting Licence/Mining Leases and measures to be taken to prevent illegal mining.

**Kho-Kho Team**

5232. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 734 dated March 6, 1996 and state:

(a) whether Railways have since got affiliation with the Kho-Kho Federation of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the steps taken by the Railways to get affiliation with the Kho-Kho Federation of India early;

(d) whether the Kho-Kho players already on the rolls of Railways have since been identified and process for recruitment of others has since been initiated;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Federation is being approached for grant of affiliation early.

(d) to (f) Further action would be processed only after the Kho-Kho Federation of India grants formal affiliation to the Railways.

**Railway Projects**

5233. SHRI V. PRADEEP DEV:

SHRI N.J. RATHWA:

SHRI VISHVESHWAR BHAGAT:

SHRI PAWAN DIWAN:

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the railway projects implemented during the Eight Five Year Plan and proposed for implementation during the Ninth Five Year Plan, zone-wise and particularly in Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh;

(b) the expenditure incurred thereon during above period and funds earmarked for current financial year, project-wise;

(c) the time by which the above projects are likely to be completed; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to complete the above projects within stipulated time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) to (d) The information is being collected from Zonal Railways and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

**Extension of Railway Link upto Ponnani**

5234. SHRI G.M. BANATWALA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the need to extend rail link upto Ponnani in District Malappuram in Kerala (Southern Railway); and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

**Facilities to Freedom Fighters**

5235. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the freedom fighters are entitled to get telephone connections on out of turn basis and at the concessional rates as few as installation and calls are concerned; and

(b) if so, the guidelines issued in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) and (b) Sir, the freedom fighters are entitled to register their demand for one telephone connection under "Non-OYT-Swatantra Senani" Category at a place where he/she is normally available. Freedom fighters are provided telephone without payment of installation charges and are charged only half the normal rentals.

*[Translation]*

**Unsuccessful Satellite Money Order Scheme**

5236. SHRI SHYAM LAL BANSHIWAL:

SHRI ANAND RATAN MAURYA:

SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the scheme of sending money orders through satellite started with great fanfare has failed to meet its objectives;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether steps have been taken for making this scheme successful; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) For making the scheme of "Satellite Money Order Service" successful the Department has initiated following measures:

(i) Very Small Aperture Terminal (VSAT) has got two ports. Previously only one port was activated which was used for transmission and receipt of data. Now, the Department has activated the 2nd Port also to increase the traffic. While the one Port is being used exclusively for receipt of data the 2nd Port is used for transmission of data.

(ii) Each VSAT Centre is, now, being linked with 5 more Post Offices where MODEMS and computers are under installation for one line receipt and transmission of data directly in these identified Post Offices. 220 MODEMS have already been installed which has resulted in increase in the traffic of money order and Hybrid Mail Service.

(iii) VSAT Centres have been ordered to be kept open at night

(iv) Satellite Money order software has been upgraded which has now the enhanced capability of exchange of data amongst the VSATs with Single access.

(v) For ensuring optimum utilisation of VSATs a monthly control statement has been prescribed which is reviewed and analysed in the Directorate.

Above, measures have resulted in 337% increase in the Satellite based transmission of Money Orders during the month of March, 1997 as compared to the figures for September, 1996. Similarly, Hybrid Mail Service has increased by 76% from September, 1996 to March, 1997.

*[English]*

**Export of Steel**

5237. SHRI SYDAIAH KOTA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is rise in Salem steel's exports;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the foreign exchange earned by the export in 1996-97?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There is an increase in the exports made by Salem Steel Plant in 1996-97 over 1995-96 as given below:

| Year | Quantity of Export ('000 T) |
|---|---|
| 1995-96 | 7 |
| 1996-97 | 25 (Prov.) |

(c) The value of foreign exchange earned by the export in 1996-97 is Rs. 175 crores (Prov.).

**SC/ST in Rail Service**

5238. SHRI DWARAKA NATH DAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that percentage of representation in rail service of SC/ST is microscopic minority, particularly in higher grade services;

(b) the details of percentage of representation of SC/ST in rail services, grade-wise;

(c) the figures and percentages of SC/ST in rail services in respect of reservation in promotion are concerned; and

(d) the steps are being taken to absorb SC/ST in rail services and to clear the backlogs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b) The representation as on 31.3.96 of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Railway Services are as follows:

| | SC | ST |
|---|---|---|
| Group 'A' | 14.33% | 5.49% |
| Group 'B' | 17.26% | 4.60% |
| Group 'C' | 15.11% | 5.52% |
| Group 'D' (Excluding Safaiwalas) | 17.75% | 8.58% |
| Group 'D' (Safaiwalas) | 72.36% | 5.19% |
| Grand Total | 18.06% | 6.72% |